

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

## Eastern District of Wisconsin

In the Matter of the Search of  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)  
a USPS Parcel assigned tracking number 9205 5903  
4701 6730 0008 2580 40

Case No. 24-860M(NJ)

## WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search and seizure of the following person or property located in the Eastern District of Wisconsin

(identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

A USPS Priority Mail piece (SUBJECT PARCEL). The SUBJECT PARCEL is described as a 15" x 11.5" x 7.75", a brown cardboard box, weighing approximately 5 pounds or 2267.96 grams, and bearing USPS Priority Mail parcel number 9205 5903 4701 6730 0008 2580 40. The SUBJECT PARCEL has a typed label addressed from, "Alexia Rodgers, 1324 Balboa Ave Burlingame CA 94010". The typed label is addressed to "Ariyanna Webb, 2034 N 30th St Milwaukee, WI 53208-1531". The Postage paid was \$20.18.

I find that the affidavit(s), or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or property described above, and that such search will reveal *(identify the person or describe the property to be seized)*:

A quantity of a controlled substance or fruits of crime, or other evidence of using the mail to facilitate the possession and/or distribution of a controlled substance, in violation of title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 846, and 843(b).

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to execute this warrant on or before 6/27/2024 *(not to exceed 14 days)*

☐ in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.    ☒ at any time in the day or night because good cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to Hon. Nancy Joseph

(United States Magistrate Judge)

☐ Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3103a(b), I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2705 (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized (*check the appropriate box*)

☐ for \_\_\_\_\_ days (not to exceed 30) ☐ until, the facts justifying, the later specific date of \_\_\_\_\_.

Date and time issued: 6/13/2024 @ 12:40 p.m.

City and state: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Hon. Nancy Joseph, U.S. Magistrate Judge

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*Printed name and title*

## Return

Case No.:

Date and time warrant executed:

Copy of warrant and inventory left with:

Inventory made in the presence of :

Inventory of the property taken and name(s) of any person(s) seized:

## Certification

I declare under penalty of perjury that this inventory is correct and was returned along with the original warrant to the designated judge.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Executing officer's signature*

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Printed name and title

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Eastern District of Wisconsin

In the Matter of the Search of

(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)

a USPS Parcel assigned tracking number 9205 5903  
4701 6730 0008 2580 40

Case  
No.24-860M(NJ)

## APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

a USPS Parcel assigned tracking number 9205 5903 4701 6730 0008 2580 40 sent by "Alexia Rodgers" and addressed to "Ariyanna Webb" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

located in the \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_ Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

A quantity of a controlled substance or fruits of crime, or other evidence of using the mail to facilitate the possession and/or distribution of a controlled substance, in violation of title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 846, and 843(b).

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;  
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;  
☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;  
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section	Offense Description
21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 846, and 843(b)	Possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, Conspiracy, and Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility (including the mails) to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance

The application is based on these facts:

Please see attached affidavit, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.  
☐ Delayed notice of \_\_\_\_\_ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: \_\_\_\_\_) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

*Erik Meidlinger*  
Applicant's signature

Erik J. Meidlinger, Inspector, USPS  
Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by  
telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (specify reliable electronic means).

Date: 6/13/2024

*Nancy Joseph*  
Judge's signature

City and state: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Hon. Nancy Joseph, U.S. Magistrate Judge

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF  
AN APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT**

I, Erik J Meidlinger, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector, assigned to the United States Postal Inspection Service (“USPIS”) Domicile in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I have been a federal law enforcement agent for over four years. From July 2017 to January 2022, I served as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service and from January 2022 to the present day, with the USPIS.

2. The USPIS is the primary investigative arm of the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) and is charged under Title 18, United States Code, 3061 with the enforcement of laws governing the use and movement of the United States Mail, including the misuse and fraudulent schemes involving the mail, crimes relating to mail fraud, narcotics trafficking and identity theft involving the United States Mail.

3. In 2010, I graduated from California State University Stanislaus with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and by 2012 completed 18 credit hours towards a master’s degree in criminal justice at California State University Stanislaus.

4. During my time as a law enforcement officer, I completed numerous hours of training on criminal drug use, abuse, and trafficking. I have had both formal training and have participated in drug investigations. More specifically, my training and experience includes the following:

- a. I am familiar with the appearance and street names of various drugs, including marijuana, heroin, cocaine, cocaine base (unless otherwise noted, all references to crack cocaine in this affidavit is cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine), ecstasy, and methamphetamine. I am familiar with the methods used by drug dealers to package and prepare controlled substances for sale. I know the street values of different quantities of the various controlled substances;

- b. I am familiar with the language utilized over the telephone to discuss drug trafficking, and know that the language is often limited, guarded, and coded;
- c. I know that drug traffickers often use electronic equipment and wireless and land line telephones to conduct drug trafficking operations;
- d. I know that drug traffickers commonly have in their possession, and at their residences and other locations where they exercise dominion and control, firearms, ammunition, and records or receipts pertaining to such;
- e. I know that drug traffickers often put their telephones in nominee names in order to distance themselves from telephones that are utilized to facilitate drug trafficking; and
- f. I know that drug traffickers often use drug proceeds to purchase assets such as vehicles, property, and jewelry. I also know that drug traffickers often use nominees to purchase and/or title these assets in order to avoid scrutiny from law enforcement officials.

5. Based on my training, experience and discussion with fellow United State Postal Inspectors, Kenosha Drug Operations Group detectives, and North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) drug task force officers, I know narcotics, drugs, paraphernalia, controlled substances, and moneys associated with the sale of narcotics, drugs, and controlled substances are sent through the USPS system, and I am familiar with many of the methods used by individuals who attempt to use the USPS to illegally distribute controlled substances.

#### **PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT**

6. This affidavit is made in support of a Federal Search and Seizure Warrant for the **SUBJECT PARCEL** (described below), for items which may constitute the fruits, instrumentalities, proceeds and evidence of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance), 846 (Conspiracy to Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance, and 843(b) (Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility (including the mails) to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance). To seize: any controlled substance, and any paraphernalia associated with the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances including packaging materials and containers to hold controlled substances; proceeds of drug trafficking activities, such

as United States currency, money orders, bank checks, precious metals, financial instruments; and drugs or money ledgers, drug distribution or customer lists, drug supplier lists, correspondence, notations, logs, receipts, journals, books, records, and other documents noting the price, quantity, and/or times when controlled substances were obtained, transferred, sold, distributed, and/or concealed.

#### **PARCEL TO BE SEARCHED**

7. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a Federal Search and Seizure Warrant for a USPS Priority Mail piece (**SUBJECT PARCEL**). The **SUBJECT PARCEL** is described as a 15” x 11.5” x 7.75”, a brown cardboard box, weighing approximately 5 pounds or 2267.96 grams, and bearing USPS Priority Mail parcel number 9205 5903 4701 6730 0008 2580 40. The **SUBJECT PARCEL** has a typed label addressed from, “Alexia Rodgers, 1324 Balboa Ave Burlingame CA 94010”. The typed label is addressed to “Ariyanna Webb, 2034 N 30<sup>th</sup> St Milwaukee, WI 53208-1531”. The Postage paid was \$20.18.

#### **INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBJECT PARCEL**

8. I, and other Postal Inspectors, have identified a trend of drug traffickers mailing controlled substances into the Eastern District of Wisconsin, from states in the Western United States, the Caribbean, and along the international border such as: Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and the territorial island of Puerto Rico. There, controlled substances are more easily and readily available, due to certain state laws, and a porous international border, among other reasons. Inasmuch as individuals who would receive these controlled substances through the United States Mail are obliged to pay for said controlled substances, often, the United States Mail is utilized by drug recipients to send payments back to the drug traffickers along the West Coast, along the Southwestern United States and Puerto Rico.

As such, within the Prohibited Mail-Narcotics program area of the USPIIS, certain indicators have been identified in the area of the trafficking of both illegal drugs, and their proceeds, through the United States Mail.

9. I, along with other Milwaukee Postal Inspectors, conduct routine examinations of Postal Service databases and the outside of parcels traveling in the USPS Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express to the Eastern District of Wisconsin from states in the Southwest and Western United States as well as the territory of Puerto Rico.

10. On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, a search of Postal databases revealed one parcel mailed from a Post Office in San Francisco to Milwaukee, WI. The mailing characteristics of the parcel matched previous narcotics parcels mailed through the United States Postal System that were intercepted and opened through search warrant or consent by Postal Inspectors which resulted in seizures of illegal narcotics.

11. On Thursday, June 6, 2024, internal United States Postal Service databases identified the **SUBJECT PARCEL** addressed to 2034 N 30<sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53208 had arrived at Mid-City Post Office in Milwaukee, WI and was retrieved by Postal Inspector Christopher Massari.

12. Examination of the exterior of the parcel revealed that it was addressed in a typed manner. No phone number was listed for the receiver or sender, which is odd for a parcel shipped for the amount the **SUBJECT PARCEL** was shipped for.

*CLEAR database query and K9 alert to the **SUBJECT PARCEL***

13. United States Postal Service database searched by USPIS Inspector Erik Meidlinger revealed the address 2034 N 30<sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53208 does exist as a physical address. There is no record through Thomson Reuters CLEAR database of a Ariyanna Webb at that address. United States Postal Service database searched by USPIS Inspector Erik Meidlinger revealed the address 1324 Balboa Ave. Burlingame, CA 94010 is an address of a residential home. There is no record through Thomson Reuters CLEAR database of an Alexia Rogers at that address.

14. On June 7, 2024, Milwaukee Police Department Officer Christopher Conway (Officer Conway), his canine “FLEXY” and I met at the United States Postal Inspection Service Milwaukee Domicile, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Together, Officer Conway and “FLEXY” are a certified drug detection team. Canine “FLEXY” alerts to the odor of a controlled substance (specifically heroin, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and other controlled substances made with like components) by passively sitting and staring at the area or object emitting or containing the odor of the controlled substances he is trained to alert to. Officer Conway and canine Flexy have received four weeks (160 hours) of intensive training and certification through Shallow Creek Kennels, deploying and utilizing a drug detection canine; this certification (January 2019) is based on guidelines set forth by the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) which is a nationally based group in partnership with local, state, federal and international agencies including private vendors, law enforcement and first responder; this training establishes consensus-based best practices for the use of detection canine teams by improving the consistency and performance of deployed teams which will improve interdiction efforts as well as courtroom acceptance. Officer Conway and canine “FLEXY” have detected controlled substances more than 800 times in the past, which included training and in each alert



drugs that canine “FLEXY” is trained to find have been recovered or a drug nexus has been found. Canine “FLEXY’s” alerts have been the basis for more than ninety (90) search warrants (parcels, residences, vehicles, etc.) and the search of numerous motor vehicles and in each alert drugs that canine Flexy is trained to find have been recovered or a drug nexus has been found.

15. On June 7, 2024, the **SUBJECT PARCEL** was placed amongst multiple empty boxes in a room at the United States Postal Inspection Service Milwaukee Domicile. Officer Conway and I watched as “FLEXY” sit and stare at the **SUBJECT PARCEL**. Officer Conway advised me that these actions are consistent with “FLEXY” detecting the odor of controlled substances.

16. Based upon the information as outlined in this affidavit, I respectfully believe that the **SUBJECT PARCEL** may contain controlled substances being trafficked through the United States Mail. Consequently, I respectfully request authorization to open the **SUBJECT PARCEL** and search its contents for evidence of controlled substance trafficking. I also request permission to seize contents of the parcel as evidence, that may constitute contraband, proceeds or fruits of the crime of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance), 846 (Conspiracy to Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance, and 843(b) (Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility (including the mails) to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance).

17. I have not included in this affidavit each and every fact known to me regarding this investigation and search warrant application request; the facts included are only those that I, respectfully, believe may relate to a determination of whether there is probable cause to believe

that items sought to be seized will be found in the place, or item, to be searched, and whether those items are evidence of the offenses identified in this affidavit.

18. The **SUBJECT PARCEL** is currently being held at the United States Postal Inspection Service office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin